

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO USMISSION NATO

USNNR/SHAPE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6847

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 3945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, FR, BE, NAOT

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT TO NATO OF FRENCH GENERAL

1. FRENCH AIR FORCE BRIGADIER GENERAL RENE CHESNAIS
CONFIDED TO DCM AT DINNER FEBRUARY 12 THAT DECISION
LIKELY BE MADE IN COMING FEW WEEKS RE HIS FUTURE
ASSIGNMENT TO BRUSSELS. ACCORDING CHESNAIS HE IS SLATED
TO EITHER BECOME HEAD OF THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION
TO THE MILIRARY COMMITTEE OF NATO OR TO BE DESIGNATED FRENCH
LIAISON OFFICER TO SHAPE. EITHER APPOINTMENT WOULD MEAN
HIS FOURTH STAR THUS EQUATING HIM WITH US RANK LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

2. CHESNAIS, WHO AS CAPTAIN SERVED AS MILITARY AIDE TO
GENERAL GRUENTHER, IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO
MANY OLD SHAPEITES. HE POSSESSES ENGAGING PERSONALITY
AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY ATTRACTIVE WIFE WHO HERSELF
WAS MEMBER OF SHAPE STAFF THROUGH 1955, I.E., PRIOR TO
HER MARRIAGE TO CHESNAIS.

3. COMMENT: UNTIL FINAL DECISION MADE AND APPOINTMENT
ANNOUNCED FOREGOING SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND TREATED IN
UTMOST CONFIDENCE. WE CONSIDER CHESNAIS STRONG FRENCH
NATIONALIST WHO WILL OVERTLY BE FRIENDLY TO U.S.

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BUT WHO WILL FAITHFULLY REPRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT.

IRWIN

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